



Rehabilitation

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP)
Millicent Tidwell, Director



A poetry slam is a competitive form of spoken word poetry that is growing in popularity and being performed across the country. Inmates at California State Prison, Sacramento (SAC) recently competed in the institution's Poetry Slam.

Thirty-one men took up the challenge, completed several months of instruction, made a written submission of their work and gave a public performance in front of an audience and panel of judges. Some performers accompanied their pieces with music that emphasized their message. Some participants sang, others spoke or shouted their piece, emphasizing their ideas with gestures, even dance. Others quietly recited their piece. The audience was made up of institutional staff, outside visitors and inmates. The interactive audience responses added to the energy of performances.

Activities, such as the Poetry Slam, provide an important outlet for the vast creative energy in our inmate population and a positive alternative to the violence we see on a daily basis, both in prison and in the world.
Dale Hamad, Principal, SAC

Television Specialist Terry Bolin created a DVD of the winning performances, which will be judged statewide against the DVDs submitted by other participating institutions and shown on CDCR's Institutional Television channel.

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A New Beginning:

A New FOTEP Opens for Female Parolees—and Their Children

DRP's fifth Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program (FOTEP) has opened in Sacramento. FOTEPs focus on intensive, gender-responsive counseling services, which contribute to recovery and employment success.

Service provider Center Point, Inc. opened the Sacramento FOTEP in Fair Oaks to provide a smooth transition for female offenders back to the community. Twenty four parolees will take advantage of Center Point's residential substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral treatment, job development and placement, life skills and education services.



FOTEPs offer a unique opportunity for these women to have their children (up to 12 years of age) reside with them as they go through the program, which

lasts up to 15 months. Center Point has a child development specialist on staff to oversee child-related activities at the center.

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Today!

Sweet Success with Electronic GED!

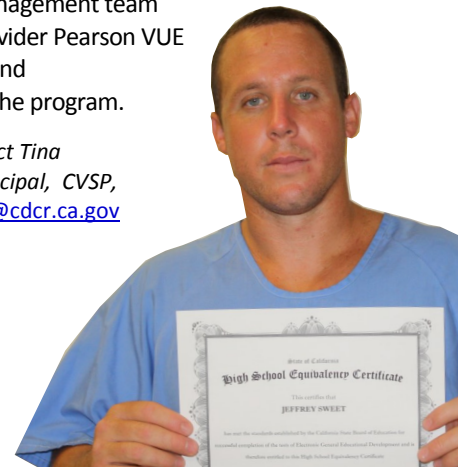
The Office of Correctional Education is implementing electronic General Education Development (GED) testing that is now required by law to ensure testing accuracy and save expense. Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) piloted this program, and is transitioning from a paper and pencil process used by current GED applicants to fully electronic GED exams for first-time examinees.

The first inmate to successfully complete CVSP's electronic GED tests is Jeffrey Sweet. Inmate Sweet studied for four months prior to taking the course. It took him just under seven hours to complete the test, which is less than the time CVSP Principal Tina Redway said it would take using pencil and paper.

Mr. Sweet is planning to enroll in CVSP's career technical welding program for his American Welding Society certification. His long-term plans are to enroll in an automotive certification program at a community college upon release.

Principal Redway cited the benefits that include immediate scoring, and how the electronic GED system prevents tests from being compromised. She praised the collaboration and execution demonstrated by the CDCR Enterprise Information System's Client Services Management team and test provider Pearson VUE to develop and implement the program.

Please contact Tina Redway, Principal, CVSP,
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***The right inmate in
the right program
at the right time:***

Academic Education

Increases inmate reading levels to minimum 9th grade level and achieve a GED or high school diploma. Access to college courses also available

California Identification Card

Assists in obtaining state-issued I.D. cards used to secure employment, housing, bank accounts, travel, and more

Career Technical Education

Prepares inmates for viable vocational career paths upon release by training to industry certification levels

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment

Provides evidence-based treatment for Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Family Relationships and Criminal Thinking

Long Term Offender Program

Provides evidenced-based treatment programming in criminogenic behavior to inmates serving long-term sentences

Offender Mentor Certification

Trains and certifies long-term inmates as interns to assist as mentors in various substance abuse treatment programs

Pre-Employment Transition

Provides job readiness skills including job search, resume, interviewing, financial skills, access to career centers

Reentry Hub

Provides relevant training and services to eligible and interested inmates within 4 years of release

Step-Down Program

Provides alternatives to criminal gang lifestyle to reduce confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU)

Substance Abuse Treatment

Promotes positive social behavior and help inmates develop knowledge and skills necessary to avoid substance use relapse and successfully reintegrate back into the community, through single and multi-level substance abuse treatment programs

VEP Success in Administrative Segregation Units

California State Prison, Centinela (CEN) assigned a Voluntary Education Program (VEP) teacher to the Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) in October 2013 as part of a continuing effort to increase rehabilitative opportunities for all inmates.

VEP Teacher Tyson Borm began attending Institution Classification Committee to offer inmates an opportunity to participate in education programs, including completion of their General Education Development (GED) certificate, enrollment in college courses, development of literacy skills, and improving their math and writing abilities. Inmates participating in the program receive one-on-one tutoring with the VEP teacher as well as individual study packets. Mr. Borm also proctors college students taking their midterm and final exams.



Currently, there are approximately 120 inmates receiving education services in the Administrative Segregation Unit at CEN. Twenty-five (25) to 30 of them are preparing to take the GED in the next month; ten inmates are taking college courses with [Coastline Community College](#).

The program continues to grow and evolve under the leadership of Mr. Borm and Supervisor of Correctional Education Programs (A), Dr. Lincoln Johnson. Education and custody staff work closely together to ensure program success.

Please contact Lincoln Johnson, Principal, CEN,
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FACT of Fresno

Fresno Parole, Central District, held an innovative meeting and provider fair for 70 female parolees on Thursday, August 21, 2014. The Females Achieving Change Together (FACT) meeting, held at the Fresno Parole Complex, was a gender-specific version of the [Division of Adult Parole Operations'](#) Parole and Community Team (PACT) meetings held throughout the state.

The meeting, conceived by Central District Parole Service Associate Celeste Van Anne, included 21 parole service providers (six of whom are gender specific), parole agents, Parole Planning and Placement staff, and DRP personnel. Services represented included health care providers, technical colleges, shelters, residential/sober living services, child support services, low income energy assistance program, employment support and counseling, human trafficking support group, Alcoholics Anonymous, and a Medi-Cal certified enrollment counselor.

The meeting included personal testimonial from a former parolee and addict; presentations from each of the providers and a knowledge treasure hunt for parolees. Parolees enthusiastically participated in the various activities and providers' booths were very busy after the meeting. Parole Agent II Ramiro Calderon envisions more FACT meetings throughout the Northern Region.

Please contact Celeste Van Anne, Fresno Parole—Central District,
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DRP funds a growing network of focused evidence-based Community and Reentry Services throughout California to help offenders transform their lives and successfully reintegrate into society:

Computer Literacy Learning Centers (CLLC):

Certified teachers provide computer-based courses for basic reading, writing and math

Day Reporting Centers (DRC) and Community Based Coalition (CBC):

"One Stop Shops" address parolee's needs through assessment and placement in classes and support services. Education, life skills, financial and employment training, substance abuse and counseling. Some transition housing available

Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program (FOTEP):

Gender-responsive residential treatment services for women and their children

Parolee Service Centers (PSC):

Residential programs provide group and family reunification, life, employment skills

Residential Multi-Service Centers (RMSC):

Housing, substance abuse treatment and independent living skills to help at-risk parolees transition back into the community

Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP):

Comprehensive residential and outpatient programs and services supporting parolees needs for housing, substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral intervention, employment, education, family relations and community referrals

Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Program (STAR):

Certified instructors provide substance abuse treatment education in select parole offices



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Today!

DRP's Rodger Meier and Tina Bayles Recognized at Medal of Valor 2014 Ceremony



Two long-term CDCR employees are recognized for their tireless work ethic and proven dedication to enhance CDCR's rehabilitative programming capabilities to reduce recidivism.

Rodger Meier, Deputy Director, named CDCR's 'Executive of the Year' for 2014

Mr. Meier, a 29-year CDCR employee with extensive experience in custodial roles and case management, was cited for the broad array of rehabilitative initiatives in DRP's quest to reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

As Deputy Director since 2013, Mr. Meier has spearheaded these evidence-based programs:

- [Reentry Hubs](#) in 13 adult institutions
- Expansion of [Substance Abuse Treatment \(SAT\)](#) programs into additional institutions
- [Cal ID Card Program](#)
- [Transitions \(job readiness\) Program](#)
- [Long Term Offender Pilot Program](#)
- [Step Down Program](#) for Security Threat Group affiliates in security housing units
- [Offender Mentor Certification Program](#)
- Cross-training for custody staff and SAT counselors
- Expansion of [academic and career technical education programs](#)
- [Automated Rehabilitation Catalog and Information Discovery \(ARCAID\) Machines](#) to direct parolees to desired services and locations

Mr. Meier believes people are capable of change and works tirelessly to support CDCR's rehabilitative goals.

Tina Bayles, Staff Services Manager II, Performance Evaluation, Data & Fidelity, is 'Rehabilitation Professional of the Year'

Mrs. Bayles, a six-year CDCR employee, has played an integral role in carrying out DRP's mandate to provide effective programming leading to reductions in recidivism. As DRP's information technology coordinator, she has introduced innovative ideas that enhance DRP's ability to capture and analyze massive volumes of programming data, track offender progress and measure program fidelity using standards of evidence-based practices.

Some of these include:

- [Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions \(COMPAS\)](#) assessment tool including oversight of multiple version releases, statewide training and policy amendments.
- [Automated Rehabilitation Catalog and Information Discovery \(ARCAID\) Machines](#)
- [Automated Reentry Management System \(ARMS\)](#) to track offender progress in community based reentry programs.
- Rehabilitative Advancement initiatives currently in development to address the Three Judge Panel mandates to improve inmate communication and opportunities for milestone credits, which in turn help reduce prison overcrowding.